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Cooperative agreement N°.685-A-00-06-00054-00

**KORANIC SCHOOLS PILOT PROJECT**  
**Third Quarterly report**  
**(December through February 2007)**



*March 2007*

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## ACRONYMS

<b>CPI</b>	Counterpart International
<b>CTO</b>	Cognizant Technical Officer
<b>DALN</b>	Literacy and National Languages Services
<b>HIV</b>	Human Immuno deficiency Virus
<b>IEC</b>	Information Education and Communication
<b>IDEN</b>	Government Local Education Department
<b>MT</b>	Metric Ton
<b>NA</b>	Not Applicable
<b>PIP*</b>	Programme Intégré de Podor
<b>UJAK*</b>	Union des jeunes Agriculteurs du koyli Wirndé
<b>USDA</b>	United States Department of Agriculture
<b>USG</b>	United States Government
<b>USAID</b>	United States Agency for international Development

\* **CPI** local partners

## I. Executive Summary

Koranic schools, called Daaras, are the primary source of education for many children in northern Senegal. The students (taalibes) in the Daaras often lack the necessary resources to provide taalibés with an adequate living and learning environment, nutritional intake, and health services. The poor living and learning conditions result in poorly educated and nutritionally deficient children who seriously lack future economic and educational opportunity.

The Koranic School Pilot Project implemented by Counterpart International and funded by USAID and the US Embassy focuses on finding solutions to address the needs of over 3,800 students attending the rural koranic schools of Mboumba, Belel Boghal, Bodé and Doumgalaw in Podor, and the Koranic School of Koki in Louga.

The following objectives will be achieved through this program:

- Improved learning conditions of talibés
- Increased basic literacy and vocational skills of taalibés
- Improved child health & nutrition in Daaras
- Strengthened community participation in the management and maintenance of Daaras

Counterpart works with school authorities, community leaders and local health facilities to improve students' living and learning conditions, health, and nutrition, and to strengthen community's participation in the management of these koranic schools.

The program will be implemented in a period of 18 months and is budgeted at \$307,500. The effective date of this Agreement is May 10, 2006. The estimated completion date of this Agreement is November-30, 2007.

### **Program Progress during this quarter**

During this quarter, the following activities were undertaken:

- Visit of the US Ambassador's to the Koranic Schools in Mboumba
- De-worming campaign
- Commodity distribution
- Rehabilitation of shelters/classrooms latrines
- Start up of trainings on trilinguism
- Start up of vocational trainings
- Start up of numeracy and literacy
- Community Sensitization (lectures and community discussions)
- Radio broadcasts

## **II. Overall I Program Management**

### **2.1. Administrative management of the program**

The koranic school pilot project is managed by CPI Technical Adviser, under the supervision of the Country Representative. It's implemented in the field by the Field Program Manager and the School Feeding Officer. Other CPI technical staff provide support as necessary.

All activities are conducted in coordination with USAID/Senegal/CTO who is responsible for:

- (a) Review and approval of CPI's implementation plan, to include any significant revisions;
- (b) Review and approval of selection/replacement of key personnel;
- (c) Review and approval of performance monitoring and evaluation plan;

A revised Annual Work Plan was approved by the USAID CTO (see Annex 1) and incorporates new timing and strategies that introduce trilinguism and vocational training. Originally, the introduction of trilinguism was supposed to be conducted by DALN (Literacy and National Languages Services). However, after meetings and discussions with marabous and IDEN, Counterpart realized that increased program cost effectiveness could be achieved through the use of local teachers and CPI partners to facilitate this activity.

### **2.2. Program Implementation**

#### **2.2.1 Enrolments**

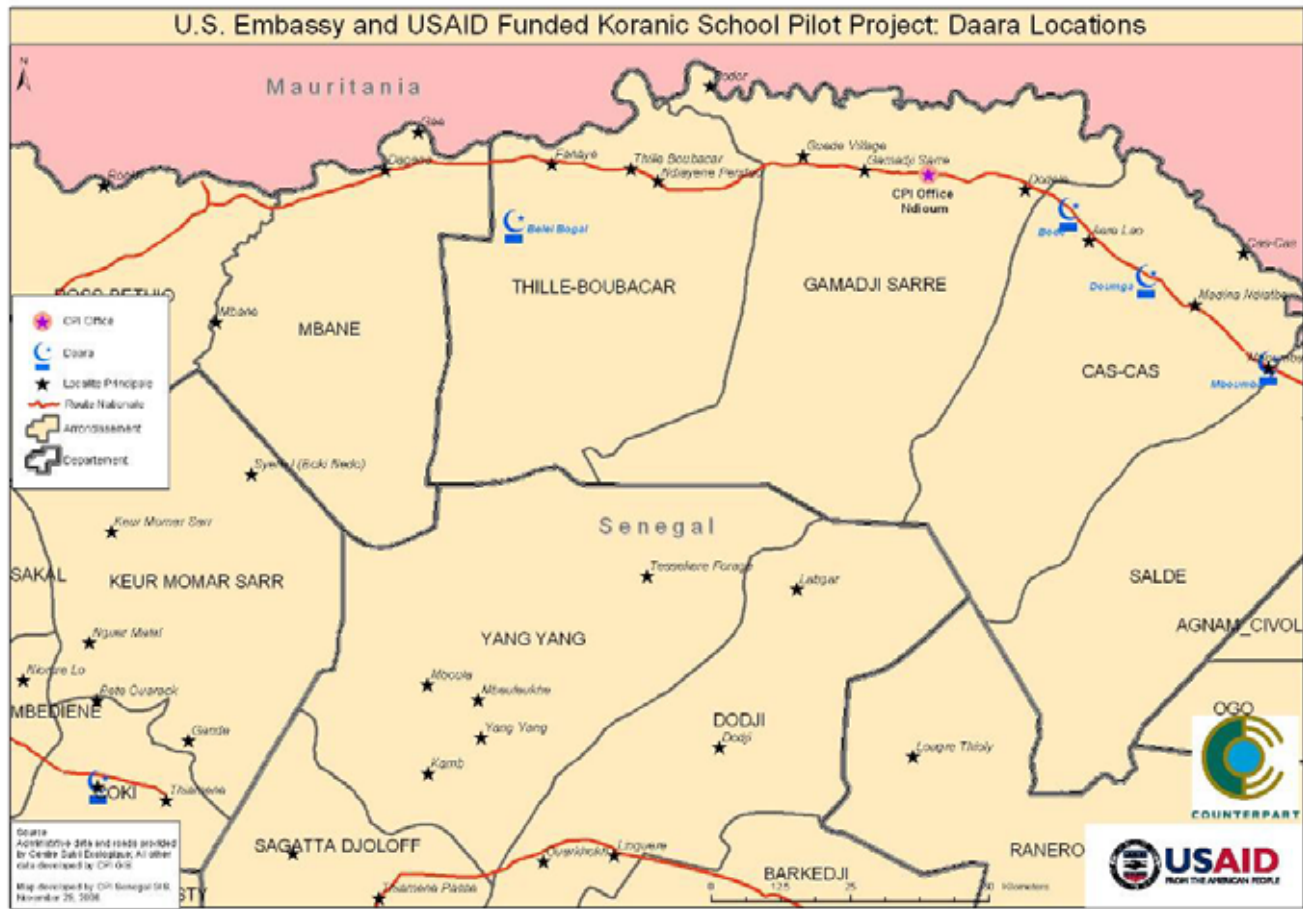
3,800 total students enrolled including:

- 546 in Mboumba
- 108 in Bode
- 53 Belel Boghal
- 146 in Doungalaw including 56 who attend public schools
- 3000 in Koki
- 12 % girls
- Student age ranges from 5 - 33 yrs, with the average age from 10 -12 years old

#### **2.2.2 Attendance**

Attendance is monitored through registers provided to the Daaras and filled out on a daily basis. The attendance rate is quite high (99.5%). No drop outs have been reported.

Figure 1: Geographic location of participating Koranic Schools



### 2.2.3 Numeracy/Literacy/Life skills

A contract was signed with IDEN for the design, implementation and coordination of literacy trainings at the daaras. This strategy is relevant as IDEN is responsible for all formal and informal educational aspects in the Department of Podor.

The IDEN of Podor and his team proposed a program based on taalibés' current education level, coupled with their available time per week to conduct literacy trainings in French and Pulaar through the remaining program duration. For the training in Arabic, marabouts have their program and will be responsible for the implementation of that aspect.

In coordination with daara management committees and marabouts at each school, IDEN developed a time table and identified preexisting classrooms at local primary schools for each participating daara. IDEN purchased 1,230 books on literacy and numeracy, 800 copy books and 1,600 pens for distribution.

In all participating daaras except Mboumba the literacy component has started. In the conservative village of Mboumba Counterpart faces some resistance to the program as the marabouts prefer that literacy activities be conducted by people chosen by themselves and not the

management committees. Additionally, Mboumba's leaders feel that conducting trainings in French and Pulaar is not in concordance with the main objective of a Daara.



Distribution of copy books and pens to the Daaras of Mboumba and Bodé

### Time Table for literacy and numeracy trainings

Daara	Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
	French	Pulaar	French	Pulaar	French	Pulaar	French	Pulaar	French	Pulaar	French	Pulaar
Mboumba	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Bel Boghal												
Bode												
Doumgalao												

### Number of taalibés selected for the literacy and numeracy training per Daara

Daara	Number of students
Mboumba	80 (to be confirmed)
Bode	40
Belel Boghal	40
Doumgalao	40
<b>TOTAL</b>	200

Each Daara identified the vocational training they would like to see their taalibés following. Discussions and negotiations with potential trainers on the identified vocational trainings are already finalized. However the vocational trainers would like Counterpart to help them purchase additional tools and raw material to facilitate trainings. Currently Counterpart is examining their budget, to determine if additional funds could be used for that purpose

The table below shows the choice of vocational training by Daara

Daara	Number of vocational trainings chosen	Type of vocational trainings chosen
<b>Mboumba</b>	2	Metal fittings (25), masonry (25)
<b>Bode</b>	2	Carpentry (10), sewing (10)
<b>Belel Boghal</b>	1	Sewing (09)
<b>Doumgalao</b>	2	Metal fittings (10), Carpentry (10)

#### 2.2.4 Food delivery

On December 12<sup>th</sup>, rice, smoked fish, bulgur, vegetable oil, lentils and tomato paste were distributed to the different daaras. The table below shows the quantities and type of commodities distributed per Koranic School:

Quantity/Daara	Type and quantity of commodity (in Kg)					
	Rice	Smoked fish	Bulgur	Veg oil	Lentils	Tomato Paste
<b>Mboumba</b>	4,900	800	00	990	2,450	390
<b>Bode</b>	1,000	267	1,950	198	500	90
<b>Belel Boghal</b>	500	128	950	88	250	45
<b>Doumgalao</b>	800	225	1,600	154	400	75
<b>TOTAL (in kg)</b>	7,200	1,500	4,500	1,430	3,600	600

#### 2.2.5 Health service

Health services are providing free health care to Daaras, however, Counterpart noticed that more sensitization is needed for a systematic utilization of health facilities. For this reason, marabouts conduct lectures that emphasis health issues. Counterpart feels it would be interesting to track data related to utilization of health facilities by taalibés to see how changes occur based on the lectures. Additionally and related to the health component impregnated mosquito nets were distributed to the different daaras as indicated in the table below.

Daara	Number of impregnated mosquito nets
<b>Mboumba</b>	200
<b>Bode</b>	80
<b>Belel Boghal</b>	50
<b>Doumgalao</b>	70
<b>TOTAL</b>	400





Distribution of impregnated mosquito nets to the Daaras of Bodé and Doumga Lao

### 2.2.6 Outreach activities (primary schools, other koranic schools)

As mentioned in the previous report, the health campaign lectures started during the third quarter in coordination with the CPI health team and local health authorities. All the Daaras except Mboumba organized lectures on different issues related to health and/or hygiene as shown in the table below

Daara	Topic	Date	Approximate number of participants	
			Female	Male
Mboumba	NA	NA	NA	NA
Bode	Health and Hygiene	02/22/2007	99	88
Belel Boghal		02/23/2007	49	143
Doumgalao		02/21/2007	145	72
TOTAL			293	303

Counterpart facilitated the organization by providing money for the rental of chairs and other necessary material for communication with participating communities. Local radio stations (RTS, Sud FM, Walfadjri FM) provided coverage on these important events and broadcasted information on the pilot program in general and on the health lectures in particular.

Regarding IEC tools, all marabouts accept that Counterpart takes photos documenting health and hygiene activities. For instance, Counterpart believes that photos illustrating the marabouts performing hygiene and health related tasks (like washing his hands with soap) provides a strong message to students. Photos will be printed out as posters and distributed in local communities. In addition comments in Arabic and Pulaar will be written below each poster to facilitate understanding. Counterpart believes that this method will be more efficient and facilitate understanding among beneficiaries.



Community lecture on Health and Hygiene in the Daara of Doumga Lao

### **2.2.7 Community support/participation**

During this quarter, Counterpart team held two meetings with each management committee in each Daara. Meetings focused on verifying that committees were functioning properly and discussing their main issues and concerns. Problems are still noticed with the Daara of Mboumba where marabouts ask perdiems to conduct lectures for their communities.

Counterpart planned a special mission with Mr Moussa Abou Niang who is the “Programme Intégré de Podor” (PIP) Coordinator and who is well known and well respected in the whole department.

Counterpart received a request from the Daara of Koki to provide support for the purchase of mats and cooking materials. Counterpart forwarded the request to the USAID CTO with CPI’s recommendations and subsequently received USAID authorization to purchase requested materials. A hand over ceremony will be organized in the beginning of April at Koki.

## **III. Special events**

### **Ambassadors visit**

The Counterpart Koranic school pilot project had the great privilege of receiving the visit of the United States Ambassador, the Honorable Janice L. Jacobs, on Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup> 2006. The Ambassador’s delegation comprised the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) attaché Robert Hanson and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Mission Director Olivier Carduner. (See success story in the annexes).

## **IV. Constraints and Challenges**

Most constraints and challenges identified during the previous quarter are still valid. The following constraints are noted:

- Budget constraints in regards to the need associated with rehabilitation and/or construction of sufficient shelters and dormitories;
- The resistance of marabouts in Mboumba to realize full and timely program implementation;
- Additional equipment and raw material costs for effective vocational training;
- Additional support for Coki Koranic School (although not originally budgeted in the Pilot program) Counterpart in coordination with USAID would like to continue to provide assistance as done this quarter (purchase of cooking utensils);
- Many Koranic Schools in the department of Podor and other regions (Matam) are expecting to benefit from the Koranic school project;
- A major challenge will be activity sustainability and the finalization of the time constraints for vocational trainings. Only 9 months remain to train Taalibés in complex skills such as sewing, carpentry, etc. This restraint may not be feasible in terms of expecting vocational skills to be passed onto students in such a short time frame.

## **V. Impact**

Although an impact assessment has not been conducted on the Koranic schools pilot project, it is clear from the various communications, speeches and dialogues, that a major program impact will be a perceptual change that local communities, marabouts and students had on the US and their relations with Muslim people. People living in implementing communities see in this support a strong evidence of the friendship and respect that American people have for Muslims.

## **VI. Activities Planned For Next Quarter (March –May 07)**

The following activities are scheduled for the upcoming quarter:

- ▶ Commodity distribution
- ▶ Distribution of donation from CPI to the different Daaras
- ▶ Monitoring of the numeracy and literacy trainings
- ▶ Purchase of the material for the vocational trainings
- ▶ Monitoring of the vocational trainings
- ▶ Community Sensitization (lectures and community discussions)
- ▶ Radio broadcasts

# Annex

**US Ambassador and Delegation visits US Government funded Koranic School Program and other USG activities implemented by Counterpart International**

**On Tuesday December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2006**

Counterpart International Senegal received a visit from the United States Ambassador, the Honorable Janice Jacobs, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) attaché Robert Hanson and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Mission Director Olivier Carduner. The visit was multi-fold, first to visit USG funded pilot Koranic School program that works to improve Koranic school students (talibees) access to improved education and secondly to visit other Counterpart implemented USG funded activities including USDA Food for Progress Women's Group Activities and USAID Title II Maternal Child Health and Nutrition clinic.



US Ambassador, USAID Mission Director and USDA attaché greeted by Koudy Sy, Food for Progress technical assistant and community leaders.

On Tuesday evening Counterpart received the Ambassador and other officials in the village of Gamadji Sare. Here the company visited a USDA funded Food For progress (FFPr) garden. The Ambassador received a warm welcome from the entire village.

US Ambassador and USAID Mission Director look at Tilapia swimming in the Gamadji Sare irrigation canal



The entire community of Gamadji Sare turned out to welcome the guests

Prior to walking through the garden the visitors greeted government officials and community leaders in a festive atmosphere characterized by drumming, and the singing of praise for the opportunity provided to the community through the Counterpart implemented USG program.



Rice, vegetables and fish are cultivated in Gamadji Sare

This garden maintained by the Gamadji Sare Women's Association integrates both agriculture and aquaculture techniques. Through collaboration with Counterpart International this association received a water pump, technical assistance and a stock of young tilapia fish. The introduction of fish farming within the



rice/vegetable garden provides increased economic and nutritional opportunity for the women's association. Due to its distance from the coast and the depletion of fish from the Senegal River this region lacks fish. In addition to providing rice cultivation (2 crops) throughout the year, vegetables are cultivated in the cold season while Tilapia fish are raised throughout the year and feed off mosquito larvae that breed within the inundated field decreasing mosquito populations and the malaria disease vector.

That evening the Ambassador visited one of Counterpart Senegal's warehouse facilities



where USG commodities such as bulgur, wheat soy blend, and lentils are stored prior to distribution at schools and health clinics. Warehouse manager Sidat Dicko explained how commodities were distributed, managed and maintained throughout the Counterpart network.



USG commodities are loaded for distribution to primary schools, pre-schools and participating health clinics

Tuesday evening Counterpart hosted a dinner for the Ambassador and her group to meet and dine with local Peace Corps Volunteers who live and

work throughout the Region of Saint Louis and Matam.



Peace Corps Volunteers and US Officials meet, greet and socialize prior to dining at the Counterpart Senegal Ndoum field office

Dinner provided the opportunity for the Ambassador to meet volunteers and discuss their work and experiences in Senegal. Seven volunteers attended this dinner.

## **December 12, 2006 - Wednesday Morning – Mboumba Koranic Schools**

The Village of Mboumba, located on the eastern border of the Department of Podor is renowned for their traditional Muslim Koranic schools. These schools receive little to no assistance from the government or other sources and children's living conditions are difficult. The pilot Koranic School Program funded through the United States Government and implemented by Counterpart International Senegal provides muslim children with increased educational opportunities through improved learning conditions. Currently, the program works in 8 Koranic Schools (Daaras) in the Department of Podor, five of which are located in Mboumba. This 18-month program provides hot daily meals to students, deworming twice a year, medical supplies, water filters, bedding and mosquito nets, funding for school and latrine renovation and vocational skill training for students. The program cultivates positive relationships between the United States and Muslim communities in northern Senegal.



The Ambassador, Thierno Mamadou Bass and USAID Director distribute deworming medication to students at the Mboumba daara.

Thierno Bass, the head Marabout at Mboumba stated that, “by helping the students at these daaras, you are also helping the women, the men and every household within the village”.

The Ambassador received a warm welcome in Mboumba. The first stop was a visit to USDA



Mboumba Women's Association Members greet the Ambassador and USAID Mission Director

funded Mboumba Women's Association garden where the entire community, including local leaders and government officials welcomed their honored visitors. The Woman's group greeted the Ambassador with enthusiasm and dressed her in a traditional ensemble gifted from the woman's association.



From here the Ambassador paid a personal visit to the home of Thierno Racine Dia prior to continuing to the main meeting center at the daara of Thierno Bass.



The entrance to Thierno Mbass's daara lined with students, and community members singing to commemorate the Ambassador's visit

The Ambassador entered in and sat with the entire community and marabouts from the 8 participating Koranic schools. Thierno Diop, the Marabout from the village of Doumgalaw, one of the 8 participating daaras stated that, “we have already seen immediate results from this program as talibeas are able to stay in school longer and learn more each day”. Typically, students beg alms for a portion of each day to assist with collecting money for their meals. Counterpart's school feeding program provides hot daily meals to students which permits them to remain in class learning for longer periods.



After receiving warm words from the marabouts the Ambassador addressed the community, local dignitaries and beneficiaries. She then participated in the school deworming campaign. Afterwards, the entire group moved to each of the five Mboumba daaras to visit school renovations and latrine construction activities. At each location the Ambassador distributed first aid kits to each Marabout and their school.



Thierno Diamely Wane receives his school's first aid kit from the Ambassador with USAID Mission Director looking on

To date the program provided over \$10,000 USD to the five Mboumba daaras for school renovation and latrine construction. Counterpart expects completion of these activities in February 2007.



School construction taking place in Mboumba.



A plaque with USAID logo is placed on each structure constructed or

renovated with use of USAID funds



Latrines constructed through the Koranic School Pilot Program. These 2 block latrines provide a hygienic waste disposal system for boy and girl students

After visiting each school site, the Ambassador distributed lunch to talibees at the school canteen. School feeding provides a hot daily meal to student beneficiaries. Lunch comprises USG commodities such as dehydrated potatoes, lentils, wheat soy blend or bulgur, made with fortified vitamin A cooking oil and supplemented by locally purchased rice, dry fish and vegetables. Currently, over 3,800 students benefit from school feeding since its inception in August 2006 with over 502,000 meals served. The program distributed 135 metric tons of food commodities, 400 impregnated mosquito nets, 8 water filters, 8 first aid kits (1 per school), and cooking utensil sets to schools.

Ambassador hands out lunch to students



Picture from USAID – R. Nyberg

Complementing the school feeding program, some daaras receive technical assistance in



gardening and inputs such as vegetable seeds and watering cans to cultivate school gardens which provide nutritional supplements to students.

After lunch the Ambassador and visitors departed and traveled to Bode village and visited a USAID Food for Peace funded Title II Maternal Child Health and Nutrition (MCHN) clinic. Dr. Etienne Dioh, the Counterpart Senegal MCHN technical specialist provided information on the program and how Counterpart works through volunteer community health workers to implement MCHN clinics at over 61 village sites that serve over 150 polarized villages scattered throughout the Department of Podor. In Bode the group participated in the growth promotion and monitoring program (GMP) that provides nutritional food supplements to malnourished children, pregnant and lactating women. In 2006 over 56,000 children, 13 000 pregnant and 19,000 lactating women benefited from this program.



Picture from USAID - R. Nyberg  
Ambassador discusses MCHN program with community health worker in Bode

The last stop on the Ambassador's schedule was to the Daara of Nianga Edy. This daara has over 300 students who work to maintain a large 25 hectare garden that feeds the entire school. In coordination with Counterpart's USDA funded Food for Progress Program staff identified the need for a water pump to facilitate the irrigation of garden vegetables, cereal crops and fruit trees maintained by the school.



Picture from USAID - R. Nyberg  
Ambassador and USAID Director interviewed

After paying respects to Thierno Adama Gaye the Ambassador, USAID Mission Director, and Counterpart Field Program Manager participated in a press interview with representatives from two local radio stations Pete and Namarel, Sud FM, RTS and Wal Fadjri newspaper.

Over the next 6 months Counterpart will work closely with the Mboumba community to continue program implementation and develop educational curriculum and vocational programs to address student needs. Emphasis on trilingualism (Arabic, French and Pulaar), numeracy and vocational training in carpentry, sewing, masonry, etc will be included.

Trust and respect are two critical elements required to cultivate this nascent relationship. Close community ties and positive program results offer high hopes to continue constructive relationships with Muslim schools and communities. In the festive atmosphere of this visit the Ambassador, USAID Mission Director, USDA representative and other accompanying officials were welcomed into Mboumba as community members and held with the highest respect.



Koranic school tablets at Thierno Racine Dia's placed in a USG commodity box

Counterpart hopes that in the near future the pilot initiative will be expanded into other communities to address the needs of vulnerable children attending traditional muslim schools throughout Northern Senegal.

For more information or to make a donation please visit [www.counterpart.org](http://www.counterpart.org) and visit the Counterpart Senegal program home page.



Young female students sit in front of a school renovation in Mboumba

